

processor. The processor and the storage medium may reside in an ASIC. The ASIC may reside in a user terminal. In the alternative, the processor and the storage medium may reside as discrete components in a user terminal.

**[0044]** The previous description of the disclosed embodiments is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make or use the present invention. Various modifications to these embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

## CLAIMS

1. A method for performing a proxy authentication of a device tethered to a wireless unit, comprising:

- intercepting a challenge directed to the tethered device;
- generating an appropriate response to the challenge without waiting for input from the tethered device;
- forwarding the challenge to the tethered device; and
- ignoring a challenge response received from the tethered device.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein generating the appropriate response to the challenge comprises using password information associated with the wireless unit to generate the appropriate response rather than using password information associated with the tethered device.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the authentication is a challenge/ response authentication procedure.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the challenge/response authentication procedure is the Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol.

5. Apparatus within a wireless unit for performing a proxy authentication of a device tethered to the wireless unit, comprising:

- at least one memory element; and
- at least one processing element configured to execute a set of instructions stored upon the at least one memory element, the set of instructions for:
  - intercepting a challenge directed to the tethered device;
  - generating an appropriate response to the challenge without waiting for input from the tethered device;
  - forwarding the challenge to the tethered device; and
  - ignoring a challenge response received from the tethered device.

6. Apparatus for performing a proxy authentication of a device tethered to a wireless unit, comprising:

- means for intercepting a challenge directed to the tethered device;
- means for generating an appropriate response to the challenge without waiting for input from the tethered device;
- means for forwarding the challenge to the tethered device; and
- means for determining to ignore a challenge response received from the tethered device.

7. A method for performing a proxy authentication of a device tethered to a wireless unit, comprising:

- intercepting a challenge directed to the tethered device;
- forwarding the challenge to the tethered device;
- generating an appropriate response to the challenge without waiting for input from the tethered device; and
- ignoring a challenge response received from the tethered device.

8. Apparatus within a wireless unit for performing a proxy authentication of a device tethered to the wireless unit, comprising:

- at least one memory element; and
- at least one processing element configured to execute a set of instructions stored upon the at least one memory element, the set of instructions for:
  - intercepting a challenge directed to the tethered device;
  - forwarding the challenge to the tethered device;
  - generating an appropriate response to the challenge without waiting for input from the tethered device; and
  - ignoring a challenge response received from the tethered device.